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RFE ANNOUNCER delivers hourly newscast to "Iron Curtain" countries. Some observers, however, feel RFE broadcasts are totally inadequate.

## CAPITAL REPORT

# Anti-Red to Set Up New Freedom Radio

By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Dr. Walter Becher, one of the most distinguished members of the Bavarian Landtag in Germany, is visiting the United States currently on an interesting and significant mission.

He is attempting to organize—and I am sure he will be successful—an aggressive, hard-hitting, really anti-Communist counterpart to Radio Free Europe, as a joint European-American endeavor.

He is looking for reliable and outstanding Americans to join his list of European anti-communist sponsors. Refreshingly, he expects to raise most of the money for his project in Germany.

It is strictly a non-governmental operation, with no strings tied to any Western government, and no connection with the exiled politicians from the Iron Curtain countries, with whom Radio Free Europe has unhappily aligned itself.

Dr. Becher doesn't like Communists or communism in any form. He doesn't like Titoists; he doesn't like Gomulkaists; he doesn't like Kadarists. Dr. Becher is in favor of freedom and private enterprise and capitalism and he doesn't like socialism or government ownership.

He says that at least 80 percent of the people behind the Iron Curtain feel the same way and that the self-serving political propaganda, now being fed them, is not the sort of wine for which their souls thirst, but an unpalatable substitute of dreggy vinegar.

HE THINKS it is important because, he points out, many of them have not lived under a free system since before World War II. The younger generations have never lived under it at all.

Many pontifical voices speak similar words, but Dr. Becher wants to do something about it. The organization he proposes would begin by setting up an intelligence system of carefully screened individuals, experienced in the true nature of the international Communist conspiracy, including particularly the techniques of Communist state security systems.

It would have no interest in partisan politics anywhere, and would supply intelligence information to all who request it. Ultimately, his objective is to build a complex of radio transmitters similar to those of Radio Free Europe and Voice of America, to send real, anti-communist information and propaganda to the Iron Curtain peoples.

DR. BECHER'S associate in all this is Mr. George Bradat, a robust Czech gentleman in his mid-30s, whom I have already men-

tioned in these columns, who has made an intensive and somewhat disillusioning study of the actual broadcasts of Radio Free Europe over the last six years.

It was this study that caused the two of them to decide that such a venture as they propose is needed. As an intelligence operation, they say, RFE and the Voice are hopelessly unreliable and totally inadequate.

Americans, playing cops and robbers and foreign intrigue through European employees, are on dangerous ground. Europeans, using their own people, understand whom they are dealing with and are less in jeopardy of being deceived.

The operation, aside from its propaganda value to the satellite people, could be an immensely valuable fountainhead of reliable, unsanted intelligence to us.

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